DECLARATION OF KIYOSATO

International Symposium
"Japanese Role in the International World:
According to Dr. Paul Rusch's Ideals"
Paul Rusch Festival, Yatsugatake County Fair
October 22, 1988

We, the participants of the International Symposium held on October 22, 1988 at Paul Rusch Festival, Yatsugatake County Fair, earnestly discussed the role of the Japanese people in the international world and reached a common view on the following points.

Japanese owe their prosperity to their own efforts of course but also especially to the assistance provided by Americans and to international cooperations with various countries. Now that Japan has become affluent, it must construct a national consensus to actively contribute to world peace and prosperity. Such a contribution, however, requires not only very active programs at the governmental level but also international cooperation at the private level. We are convinced that true friendship between countries can only be realized through close contact on a private sector to private sector basis.

Private cooperation can never really assist other people without their self-help efforts. It should help their problem-solving on a grass-roots level in cooperation with people who are striving for the development of their own countries. International cooperation should never be a one-time thing but ever-continuing efforts based on a long-term vision, giving hope to youth, for the universal development of mankind, needless to say for the overcoming of hunger, diseases, poverty, illiteracy, and such other basic maladies.

Today we considered the case of KEEP as a typical example of such international cooperation and assistance at the private level. Dr. Paul Rusch organized KEEP in Kiyosato on the foot of Mt. Yatsugatake with the assistance from innumerous American friends. KEEP provided him an effective base to contribute to the post-war reconstruction of Japan. The ideals and the accomplishments of Dr. Paul Rusch present a model of international cooperation at the private level. His striking accomplishments mobilized the voluntary donations of American citizens and at the same time established the network of the friends of KEEP, which is still active and represented this time by Mr. Thomas Harris.

We support the efforts of international cooperation on a grass-roots level among the private citizens all over the world based on the pioneer spirit, volunteerism and the determination to "do our best" that is represented by KEEP. We fervently hope that Kiyosato will not only remain a center of such activities in Japan but also become one in the world.